

Submitter: Lindsey Frierson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lindsey Frierson, and I am a resident of Happy Valley. I am writing today to urge your full support of HB 4153.

As a parent and a professional, I believe that the health of Oregon's small and medium-sized family farms is vital to our state's identity and economy. My family and I are frequent visitors to Topaz Farm on Sauvie Island. For us, these aren't just "trips to a store"—they are essential community experiences that have become part of our family's history.

I have seen firsthand how agritourism creates unique value:

Family Connection: Bringing my young daughter to the farm allows her to learn where her food comes from in a way a grocery store simply cannot provide.

Cultural Enrichment: We recently attended the Holi festival at Topaz Farm. It was an incredibly unique, vibrant, and inclusive event that brought a diverse group of Oregonians together on agricultural land.

Economic Sustainability: We regularly attend the special evening "Farm-to-Plate" dinners. These events provide a high-quality culinary experience while directly supporting the farm's ability to remain viable in a challenging economy.

HB 4153 is a common-sense modernization of our land-use laws. It recognizes that for a farm to survive today, it must be allowed to diversify. By removing restrictive income limits and clarifying the legality of farm-to-table dinners and seasonal events, this bill ensures that places like Topaz Farm can continue to serve Oregon families safely and sustainably.

We need these farms to be more than just fields; we need them to be community hubs. Please vote YES on HB 4153 to protect Oregon's farming legacy and the traditions of the families who live here.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Frierson Happy Valley, OR